

Message Text

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TO ALL DIPLOMATIC POSTS

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SUBJECT:NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE-RESOLUTION ON PUERTO RICO

REF: A) STATE 225930; B) STATE 205876

1. LIMA NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE ON AUGUST 30, 1975, ISSUED
FINAL DOCUMENTS ENTITLED "LIMA PROGRAMME FOR MUTUAL ASSIS-
TANCE AND SOLIDARITY", PARAGRAPH 47 OF WHICH INCLUDED
INTER ALIA FOLLOWING LANGUAGE ON PUERTO RICO: "IT URGES
THE MEMBERS OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT TO CARRY OUT ALL
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NECESSARY EFFORTS TO ACCELERATE THE PROCESS OF DECOLONIZA-

TION OF THE PUERTO RICAN PEOPLE AND TO OFFER THEIR FULL SOLIDARITY AND SUPPORT THAT IT MAY ATTAIN POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE. THE CONFERENCE LIKEWISE URGES THE UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATION TO RECOGNIZE THE MOVEMENT FOR NATIONAL LIBERATION AS THE ONLY LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO, TO REQUEST THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON DECOLONIZATION TO SEND A MISSION TO VISIT THAT TERRITORY UNDER COLONIAL DOMINATION, AND TO DEMAND THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES CEASE ALL POLITICAL OR REPRESSIVE MANEUVERS INTENDED TO PERPETUATE THE COLONIAL STATUS OF PUERTO RICO."

2. WE UNDERSTAND THAT LIMA NAC RESOLUTIONS WERE ADOPTED BY

CONSENSUS AND SPECIFIC VOTES BY INDIVIDUAL ATTENDEES ARE NOT MATTER OF RECORD. ACCEPTANCE BY OTHER GOVERNMENTS OF DISTORTED AND INACCURATE DESCRIPTIONS OF POLITICAL STATUS OF PUERTO RICO (SUCH AS REPEATEDLY PRESENTED BY CUBAN GOVERNMENT) IS OF GREAT INTEREST TO US AND WE WISH TO RECORD OUR CONCERN OVER LANGUAGE OF LIMA PROGRAMME TO ALL PARTICIPATING GOVERNMENTS.

3. WE DEMONSTRATED THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO THIS ISSUE WHEN IT AROSE AT THE UN IN THE COMMITTEE OF 24 LAST MONTH. OUR REPRESENTATIONS TO COUNTRIES PARTICIPATING IN THAT COMMITTEE WERE VERY FORCEFUL AND SUCCEEDED IN GETTING CONSIDERATION OF AN OBJECTIONABLE CUBAN RESOLUTION ON PUERTO RICO POSTPONED UNTIL 1976. WE HAVE SINCE FOLLOWED UP IN A VARIETY OF WAYS TO MAKE SURE THAT THOSE WHO VOTED AGAINST REALIZE WE ARE NOT JUST TALKING FOR THE RECORD.

FYI: TANZANIANS DISTRIBUTED AT LIMA AN AIDE-MEMOIRE WHICH REFLECTED A US EFFORT TO GET TANZANIA TO GO ALONG WITH THIS POSTPONEMENT. WHILE WE HAVE NOT INTENDED EMBASSIES TO PUT THEIR DEMARCHE IN WRITTEN FORM, AND WHILE TANZANIAN REQUEST FOR A PUBLICATION OF OUR AIDE-MEMOIRE WAS DESIGNED TO ILLUSTRATE "CRUDE" US PRESSURE, THEIR PUBLICITY HAS DEMONSTRATED STRENGTH OF OUR CONCERN. END FYI.

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4. UNLESS IT CLEARLY WOULD BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE, EMBASSIES IN COUNTRIES WHICH SENT OFFICIAL VOTING DELEGATIONS TO LIMA NAC SHOULD SEEK EARLY OPPORTUNITY TO CONVEY TO APPROPRIATE HOST COUNTRY OFFICIALS THE FOLLOWING:

- YOU HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO BRING TO ATTENTION OF HOST COUNTRY THE SERIOUS CONCERN AND DISPLEASURE OF THE US OVER THE LANGUAGE ON PUERTO RICO ADOPTED IN LIMA PROGRAMME FOR

MUTUAL ASSISTANCE AND SOLIDARITY.

- THE US REGARDS INTERNATIONAL REVIEW OF PUERTO RICO AS A "NON SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORY" AS FLAGRANT INTERFERENCE IN US DOMESTIC AFFAIRS. THIS POSITION WAS RESTATED SEPTEMBER 9 BY THE SECRETARY, WHO SAID IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION FROM THE PRESS THAT THE HAVANA CONFERENCE ON SOLIDARITY WITH THE INDEPENDENCE OF PUERTO RICO (HELD SEPTEMBER 5-7) CAN ONLY BE CONSIDERED BY US AS AN UNFRIENDLY ACT...AND AS A TOTALLY UNWARRANTED INTERFERENCE IN OUR DOMESTIC AFFAIRS."

- IN FACT, US POLICY WITH REGARD TO PUERTO RICO IS BASED ON OUR COMPLETE ACCEPTANCE OF PUERTO RICO'S RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION. IT EXERCIZED THIS RIGHT IN APPROVING 1952 CONSTITUTION AND WAS, ACCORDINGLY, REMOVED FROM UN LIST OF NON SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES BY 1953 8TH UNGA. IN 1971, 26TH UNGA IMPLICITLY UPHELD THIS DECISION BY REJECTING CUBAN EFFORT AT UN TO INSCRIBE PUERTO RICAN ISSUE ON AGENDA. MOST RECENT CUBAN EFFORT AT UN WAS ATTEMPT LAST MONTH TO HAVE PUERTO RICAN ISSUE REVIEWED BY COMMITTEE OF 24. COMMITTEE VOTED TO DEFER CONSIDERATION UNTIL 1976.

- COMMONWEALTH STATUS APPROVED IN CONSTITUTION OF 1952 WAS REAFFIRMED BY THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO IN REFERENDUM OF 1967. VOTE WAS AS FOLLOWS: FOR COMMONWEALTH STATUS - 60.41 PERCENT; FOR STATEHOOD - 38.98 PERCENT; FOR INDEPENDENCE - 0.60 PERCENT. SIXTY PERCENT OF 1.067 MILLION ELIGIBLE VOTERS PARTICIPATED IN REFERENDUM. PUERTO RICANS HAVE FULL FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND, AS INDICATED BY PRECEDING STATISTICS, HAVE CLEARLY OPTED FOR PRESENT STATUS.

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- SUGGESTION IN LIMA PROGRAMME THAT SO-CALLED "NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENT" IS REPRESENTATIVE OF PUERTO RICAN PEOPLE IS COMPLETELY SPURIOUS. IN MOST RECENT GENERAL ELECTION ON ISLAND (1972), PRO-INDEPENDENCE PUERTO RICAN SOCIALIST PARTY BOYCOTTED ELECTION PROCESS, AND INDEPENDENCE PARTY RECEIVED MERE 4 PERCENT OF VOTE. THERE IS NO REPEAT NO EVIDENCE WHATSOEVER TO SUPPORT CONTENTION THAT PRO-INDEPENDENCE FORCES ON ISLAND COMMAND SUBSTANTIAL SUPPORT FROM PUERTO RICAN PEOPLE.

- US IS SEVERELY DISAPPOINTED THAT HOST GOVERNMENT ACQUIESCED IN THE ADOPTION OF THIS RESOLUTION AND WISHES TO EMPHASIZE THAT SUPPORT OF ANY RESOLUTION IN UN OR CONCEIVABLY IN SPECIALIZED AGENCIES CONTAINING COMPARABLE

LANGUAGE IN A UN CONTEXT COULD NOT HELP BUT AFFECT OUR

BILATERAL RELATIONS. (THIS POINT SHOULD BE USED UNLESS ACCORDING TO EMBASSY'S BEST INFORMATION HOST GOVERNMENT DISAVOWED NAC LANGUAGE ON PUERTO RICO.)

5. IN UTILIZING THE DISCRETIONARY AUTHORITY TO MAKE THE FIRM DEMARCHE DESCRIBED, POSTS SHOULD BEAR IN MIND THAT OUR PRIMARY CONCERN IN THE PRESENT UNGA IS IMPROVING THE HOST GOVERNMENT'S VOTING PATTERN ON KOREA (STATE 225930) SINCE A CLOSE VOTE ON THIS ISSUE IS CERTAIN WHILE A VOTING SITUATION ON THE PUERTO RICO ISSUE IS ONLY A POSSIBILITY. WHERE IMPROVEMENT OF THE VOTING PATTERN ON KOREA IS NOT POSSIBLE (E.G., AMONG THE HARD-CORE COSPONSORS OF THE NORTH KOREAN RESOLUTION), POSTS MAY PUT PRIMARY EMPHASIS ON THE DEMARCHE ON PUERTO RICO. WHERE IMPROVEMENT ON KOREA IS POSSIBLE, THE NATURE OR UTILITY OF ADDING A DEMARCHE ON PUERTO RICO SHOULD BE MEASURED AGAINST ITS EFFECT ON OUR OBJECTIVES ON THE KOREAN ISSUE. IN SOME CASES, IT MAY BE JUDGED THAT GOVERNMENTS WHICH ARE CONCERNED OVER A STRONG US REACTION TO THE LIMA PUERTO RICO RESOLUTION MAY BE THEREFORE MORE DISPOSED TO ACCOMMODATE US ON KOREA.

6. OTHER ADDRESSEES: IN ANY CASE OUR VIEWS ON PUERTO RICO SHOULD BE MADE KNOWN AT A TACTICALLY APPROPRIATE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MOMENT AS THIS WILL REMAIN A SUBJECT OF CONTROVERSY. IN SUCH CONVERSATIONS YOU SHOULD EMPHASIZE THAT THE SECRETARY'S STATEMENT OF SEPTEMBER 9, THIS REACTION TO LIMA PROGRAMME, AND THE VERY STRONG REPRESENTATIONS MADE BY US TO MEMBERS OF THE UN COMMITTEE OF 24 ALL ILLUSTRATE THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO THE ISSUE.

(SECRETARY KISSINGER COMMENTED ON THE HAVANA CONFERENCE ON SEPTEMBER 9: "WE HAVE PURSUED A POLICY WITH RESPECT TO CUBA OF MOVING BY RECIPROCAL STEPS TOWARDS AN IMPROVEMENT OF RELATIONS. THIS POLICY HAS SHOWN SOME PROGRESS AND WE ARE PREPARED TO CONTINUE THIS POLICY. AT THE SAME TIME, THE MEETING IN HAVANA CAN ONLY BE CONSIDERED BY US AS AN UNFRIENDLY ACT AND AS A SEVERE SETBACK TO THIS PROCESS AND AS A TOTALLY UNWARRANTED INTERFERENCE IN OUR DOMESTIC AFFAIRS.")

7. ADDRESSEES IN COUNTRIES WHICH SUPPORTED US ON THIS ISSUE AT ----- COMMITTEE OF 24 ----- SHOULD USE OPPORTUNITY TO ONCE AGAIN EXPRESS US APPRECIATION AND HOPE THAT CONSTRUCTIVE POSITION CONTINUES.

8. POSTS SHOULD MAKE A PROMPT AND FULL REPORT OF THEIR DEMARCHE OR CONVERSATIONS PRIOR TO OCTOBER 15.

9. OTHER ISSUES WE CONSIDER TO FALL INTO THE SAME "VITAL" CATEGORY ARE KOREA (STATE 225930) AND ISRAELI "SUSPENSION." ON THE LATTER, NO FORMAL REPRESENTATIONS ARE DESIRED AT PRESENT (STATE 205876), INASMUCH AS OUR MOST RECENT INFORMATION IS THAT ARAB GROUP HAS DECIDED NOT TO PRESS THIS ISSUE THIS YEAR. KISSINGER

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